

NETTLETON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*2021-2022 READY FOR LEARNING PLAN:
A PLAN FOR CONTINUITY OF SERVICES*



FOX MEADOW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

FOX MEADOW INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL OF CREATIVE MEDIA

NETTLETON STEAM

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL OF MEDICAL ARTS

NETTLETON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

NETTLETON HIGH SCHOOL

NETTLETON VIRTUAL ACADEMY

At the beginning of the 2020-21 school year, school districts across the State of Arkansas were charged to create a “Ready for Learning” Plan (RFL) that would illustrate how, during an extraordinary time of national health crisis, the health, safety and education of students would continue (relatively unaffected) within the school setting? Using the insight and foresight of medical professionals, educational leaders, community members, parents, and students, the academics and well-being of students at Nettleton Public Schools (NPS) did in fact continue. Through the creation of the district’s RFL Plan, areas including curriculum, assessment, learning loss, blended learning, and communication were addressed, as well as those mitigation strategies designed to best minimize the risks of COVID-19 within a school setting. As such, NPS was prepared as well as it could be for something that no one had ever experienced before...teaching and learning during a pandemic.

Now, at the beginning of the 2021-22 school year, school districts across the state are being asked to yet again prepare for teaching and learning during a pandemic. There had been such hope that the new school year would bring back a sense of “what used to be.” However, due to the rapid onset and increase of the COVID-19 Delta variant, this is not to be. As a result, the NPS RFL Plan has evolved into that which the RFL Committee and school leaders believe is needed in order to create an environment that will again minimize the risks of COVID-19. Where academics will not only continue, but now will also address and advance the learning of every child, for much was learned and set into place during the last school year. Technology infrastructure, digital learning, communication platforms, and on-line instructional best practices are just some of the areas that NPS addressed to ensure that learning would remain effective, strategic and uninterrupted. Such previous decisions and implementations have well prepared NPS for the challenges, both known and unknown, of the upcoming school year.

Interestingly, of all things learned during this unprecedented time, is that education can and should continue, no matter the challenges. Students need to be in school, communities need their schools to be open, and precious time is lost when either of these do not occur. Therefore, NPS is again prepared to continue providing a safe and enriching educational environment upon each school campus. In addition, the district will continue to follow the guidance of local, state and national professionals, respect the views of its families, remain humbled by the dedication of its staff, and stand in awe of the resilience of its students. This school year may indeed prove more challenging than last, but NPS is ready to begin, and as required by the Arkansas Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), will address any challenges following the guidelines found within the 2021-22 Nettleton Public Schools *Ready for Learning Plan: A Plan for Continuity of Services*.

NETTLETON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

COVID-19 ON-CAMPUS GUIDELINES

Updated 9-23-21

For Nettleton Public Schools (NPS), the health of its students, families, faculty and staff are of the utmost importance. As such, NPS will continue to follow the guidance and regulations set forth by the Arkansas Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as well as provide our stakeholders with the most current information as it becomes available. Updates and additions to NPS COVID-19 resources and documents can be found at <http://nettletonschoools.net/pandemic-resources>.

As the situation regarding COVID-19 remains fluid, it is important to remember that the following district guidelines are subject to being amended.

The level of virus transmission within NPS will also be an important consideration when determining how to respond to COVID-19 outbreaks. The level of district spread will be determined by examining:

- Student and staff absentee levels and trends
- Student and staff active cases (per school census)
- Evidence and severity of spread within the school community (active transmission within school setting vs unlinked cases)

NPS will consult with the ADH for guidance when determining the level of response. NPS cannot mitigate every risk, but we will do all we can to ensure the safety of our staff and students. As we continue to navigate the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, NPS remains committed to two primary goals — ensuring the safety of our students and staff, and providing a high-quality education for all students...whatever it takes!

The NPS Point of Contact (POC) regarding COVID-19 related issues is NPS District Nurse, Lori Ellis, R.N. (lori.ellis@nettletonschoools.net).

ACADEMIC PROTOCOLS

Absences

Policy

Students and staff should remain at home if sick and/or symptomatic. However, if students or staff are not sick, symptomatic, quarantined, or isolated, they should be at school. Current NPS attendance policies, as found on the district website, will be followed for both students and staff. In addition to examples found in current policy, “excused absence” will also be designated for days missed within the required timeline of “quarantine” or “isolation.” For days missed beyond those allowed in policy, building administration will address each case individually.

Educational Options

Quarantine and Isolation

NPS students, in grades Pre-K - 12, that must quarantine or isolate due to COVID-19 exposure, will be able to access their technology device, and will be able to both access and submit their class assignments via the designated learning management system (Seesaw, Google Classroom, etc.)

Students should continue their education during this time if their health condition allows them to work. They will be able to access all instructional materials on their technology devices and may contact their instructor with questions via the designated communication platform. Students will begin receiving teacher-led instruction as soon as they are cleared to return to campus.

“Pivot” of Learning

Each NPS campus is prepared to pivot to remote learning should an individual classroom or the entire campus close due to a COVID-19 outbreak. If a closure should occur, impacted students will be able to (1) access and submit assignments via the designated learning management system, (2) access live and/or recorded lessons via the designated learning management system, and (3) have opportunities to communicate with classroom teachers via the designated communication platform in order to gain assistance and understanding with academic assignments.

In the case that multiple campuses require a pivot to remote learning, NPS has an approved Alternative Method of Instruction (AMI) plan recorded with DESE and will seek approval to implement those academic procedures normally reserved for closures due to weather, power outages, or other extenuating circumstances. Each NPS campus maintains a 10-day preparation of academic instruction to use should such a need quickly arise.

Digital Learning Plans

NPS was one of few schools in the state to write a digital learning plan that was approved by DESE. The plan and its approval resulted in the creation of the Nettleton Virtual Academy (NVA). NVA was designed to provide a virtual education, based upon the best practices of digital learning, for those students who succeeded in this environment last year and wished to continue their education in such an environment.

Student participation in NVA is expected for the entire school year. However, should the Academy's leadership find that a student is not successfully meeting various performance expectations, a recommendation and/or decision may be made for the student to return to his/her assigned NPS campus to continue their academic instruction. The requirement of a daily schedule that includes live lessons, various course interactions, and multiple student, family and teacher communications are just some of the aspects that helped the NVA gain approval as a stand-alone academic campus.

More information regarding the requirements and expectations of NVA students and families can be found on the district website. At this time, NVA is the only virtual option that NPS offers. Student enrollment is limited, and if not accepted, then a student must attend on-site.

DISTRICT AND BUILDING PROTOCOLS

Daily Health Screenings

Employees

All employees will be required to conduct a daily pre-arrival screening at home, before leaving for school, which involves taking a daily temperature and monitoring for the symptoms identified below. If *any* of the following are true, the employee must remain at home and contact the school nurse for further instructions.

- o Fever of 100.4 °F or greater, new onset of cough, *or* shortness of breath unrelated to a pre-existing condition.
- o Two of the following symptoms: sore throat, chills, headache, muscle pain, loss of taste or smell.
- o Close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19.

Students

All parents/guardians will be required to conduct a daily pre-arrival screening of their children at home, before their children leave for school, which involves taking a daily temperature and monitoring for the symptoms identified below. If *any* of the following are true, the parent/guardian must keep the student at home and contact the school nurse for further instructions.

- o Fever of 100.4 °F or greater, new onset of cough, *or* shortness of breath unrelated to a pre-existing condition.
- o Two of the following symptoms: sore throat, chills, headache, muscle pain, loss of taste or smell.
- o Close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19.

Visitors

Visitation will be limited to essential visitors who have a previously scheduled appointment within the school building. If parents/guardians and/or school officials believe that face-to-face conversation(s) are necessary, this will occur by appointment only. However, communication tools such as phone calls, emails, ZOOM meetings, etc. will remain readily available for any questions or concerns that need to be addressed.

All visitors and vendors will be required to undergo a screening prior to entry into a District school or building. All visitors and vendors are encouraged to wear masks when inside a school building.

Lunch visits are prohibited at this time. Lunch items from outside restaurants may not be brought or delivered to the school for the student.

Non-essential deliveries — such as personal items, homework, musical instruments — can be brought to a designated area at the school office for the student to pick-up.

ADH guidelines will be strictly followed for the health and safety of all in attendance. Additional protocols may be developed for other individuals as needed.

Employees

As always, NPS will follow the guidance and regulations set forth by the Arkansas Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). As such, face coverings will be encouraged, but will not be required of NPS employees during the school day.

Transportation

Buses

The District will continue to provide bus transportation to its students. All students who elect to ride the bus will be encouraged to wear a face covering. Siblings or students who live together may be assigned to sit together. Hand sanitizer will be available on all buses.

Students should wear a face covering and physically distance when possible while at the bus stop. Buses are prepared to run at full capacity, however, if at all possible, parents are encouraged to drop-off/pick-up students, carpool or walk to reduce exposure on buses.

Communication

Support Needed from Parents/Guardians

- Ensure that your student(s)' immunizations and wellness checks are up-to-date
- Stress the importance of following health guidelines, such as social distancing, and the importance of health hygiene, such as washing their hands.
- Support effective communication among students, parents, and staff members, which is more critical than ever. All NPS campuses use multiple social media sites, including Facebook, and various communication platforms, including Remind 101, to communicate with their school families.

Physical Distancing

The District will implement physical distance guidelines in the classroom as building space, population and schedule allows. In accordance with ADH directives, efforts will be made to limit close contact between students.

Classroom Protocols

As appropriate, the District will limit contact through the following actions:

- Arrange classrooms and other areas to maximize spacing between students and teacher(s) to the greatest extent possible.
- Amend schedules to conform with social distancing guidelines (e.g. stagger lunches, minimize transitions, teachers may go to students).
- Physical distancing signage and floor markers will be installed throughout schools and buildings as a reminder.
- Student movement throughout the campus will be minimized as much as possible to reduce contacts.
- Students and staff will be encouraged to use no- touch greetings.
- Teachers may assist with cleaning of classrooms between classes and equipment between uses.
- Students will not share any personal belongings, equipment, or other items, such as computers, instruments, water bottles, costumes, or uniforms.
- All schools have water bottle filling stations. Students will need to bring a water bottle from home.

Lunch Protocols

Students will eat lunch in the cafeteria when possible. Each school building will develop a plan to incorporate physical distancing to the greatest extent possible during lunch periods. This may include adding additional lunch periods, incorporating more grab & go options, utilizing other available spaces, assigning students to the same group each day, etc.

Restroom Protocols

Each school building will establish maximum capacity for each restroom facility that will allow for physical distancing to the greatest extent possible. Schools will post the maximum capacity sign on the facility door. As they are considered a “high-touch area,” restroom facilities will be cleaned multiple times throughout the school day.

Locker Rooms

NPS will adhere to all Arkansas Activities Association (AAA) guidelines, as well as ADH guidelines/directives pertaining to extracurricular activities, physical education classes, and their designated spaces.

Student Lockers

The use of student lockers will be limited. Each school building will determine the extent to which lockers will be used.

Additional Safety Precautions

In addition to physical distancing and encouraging face coverings, other safety precautions will be taken without limitation:

- Implement good hand hygiene; allowing students to wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, ***if soap and water are not available;***
- Remind students to avoid touching face;
- Remind students to cover mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, or use the inside of elbow;
- Monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19.

An adequate supply of soap, disinfectant, hand sanitizer, paper towels, tissues, and supply of PPE will be available at all school sites.

Extracurricular Activities

Athletics and Fine Arts

NPS will adhere to Arkansas Activities Association (AAA) guidelines, as well as ADH guidelines/directives pertaining to athletics, fine arts, and all school-sanctioned extracurricular activities.

SANITATION PROTOCOLS

NPS Custodial Staff will adhere to the general disinfection measures outlined in the table below. Following cleaning guidance from the CDC, and safety directives from ADH, the custodial staff will monitor and comply with the most current sanitation measures proven safe, effective, and efficient.

Category	Area	Frequency
Workspaces	Classrooms, Offices	At the end of each use/daily
Appliances	Refrigerators, Microwaves, Coffee Machines	Daily
Electronic Equipment	Copier machines, Shared computer monitors, TV's, phones, keyboards	At the end of each use/day and/or between use
General Used Objects	Door handles, light switches, sinks, water fountains, restrooms, elevator buttons, stair handrails, etc.	At least 4 times a day and at the end of each day.
Buses	Bus seats, handles/railing, belts, window controls	Twice a day
Common Areas	Cafeteria, Library, Conference rooms, Gyms, Common Areas	At the end of each use/daily; between groups

General Disinfection

During the day, employees may be responsible for assisting in the maintenance of their assigned space. At the end of each day, custodial staff will follow daily disinfecting and cleaning guidance.

During the disinfecting and cleaning process, additional safety procedures addressing the COVID-19 pandemic include the following:

- Disposable gloves are to be worn to perform each of the following tasks and should be removed immediately after, handwashing is also required before and after wearing gloves:
 - o **EACH** Classroom cleaning
 - o **EACH** Restroom cleaning
 - o Floor mopping
 - o Office cleaning
- Properly labeled spray bottles (containing EPA, CDC, and the ADH approved disinfectants) are to be utilized to disinfect.
- Utilize a two-rag/ two-step protocol for disinfection.
- Buckets used to disinfect mop should be changed after each restroom cleaning is performed.

Deep Cleaning and Disinfection

Deep cleaning and disinfecting protocols will be initiated when an employee or student is identified as positive for COVID-19 based on testing. These protocols include the general disinfection measures, as well as the additional task to electrostatically fog the “affected spaces” with disinfecting chemicals. This additional task will be performed after students and staff have left the building.

Ventilation

All Nettleton Schools serving grades PK-6th will be equipped with air purifiers to aid in the mitigation of the airborne transmission of COVID-19 indoors. The purifiers will serve to supplement each school’s HVAC system ventilation and filtration, especially when adequate ventilation is difficult to achieve.

INFECTION PROTOCOLS

Positive COVID-19 Diagnosis

Students

If a student is diagnosed with COVID-19, the student or parent/guardian should contact the school's Principal/Nurse immediately. The Principal/Nurse will then contact the District Nurse and the Superintendent. The District's Point of Contact (Lori Ellis, R.N.) will notify the School Hotline for COVID-19.

Employees

An employee who tests positive for COVID-19 must:

- Notify their supervisor and appropriate building level administrator (if applicable) of the test results by emailing them on the day of receipt.
- Identify all employees and contacts (i.e. visitors, students, contractors, etc.) who were within 6 feet of a positive case for a cumulative time period of 15 minutes or more within 24 hours during their infectious period and report the information to their supervisor and/or appropriate building level administrator.
- Remain home until *all* of the following are true:
 - at least 10 days since the onset of symptoms AND
 - until fever free without anti-fever medications for 24 hours AND
 - symptoms are improving

Note: The infectious period calculation is defined as "the two days prior to the onset of symptoms or the two days prior to the test date, if asymptomatic, until the individual is released from isolation by ADH."

Probable Close Contacts

A list of Probable Close Contacts (PCC) will be identified and provided to ADH. Probable Close Contact is defined at the school/LEA level, by the POC. (Following the guidance of the CDC, NPS will use the CDC definition of a Probable Close Contact.) The CDC defines a close contact as an individual confirmed to have been within six feet for 15 cumulative minutes or longer within a 24-hour period during the infectious period of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19.

1. Individuals who have previously tested positive for COVID-19 and recovered and who are subsequently exposed to someone with COVID-19 within three months of their original diagnosis do not have to stay at home or get tested again, as long as

they do not develop new symptoms. Individuals who develop symptoms again within three months of their first instance of COVID-19 should see their physician as they may need to be tested again if there is no other cause identified for their symptoms.

2. Individuals exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19 will not need to be quarantined if they have no symptoms and both the infected and exposed individual consistently and correctly were wearing a mask.
3. Individuals who are fully vaccinated may not have to quarantine. The POC will provide the appropriate information to the individual regarding their need (or not) to quarantine.

The POC is responsible for identifying all the Probable Close Contacts to a positive case onsite and notifying those individuals of their potential exposure. The POC will also provide the PCC with the required information pertaining to the recommended 14-day quarantine period.

However, as of December 2, 2020, the CDC amended its guidance to allow two shorter options for the quarantine period. Based on current CDC guidance, the quarantine period can end for individuals experiencing no symptoms according to the following guidelines:

1. After 10 full 24-hour periods since close contact exposure without testing, and being asymptomatic; or
2. After seven full 24-hour periods since close contact exposure and after receiving a negative test result **from a physician at a medical clinic** (sample taken no earlier than five 24-hour periods after exposure).

Individuals returning within the shorter quarantine period will need to monitor themselves for symptoms until the end of the full 14-days.

Suspected Covid-19 Case

Isolation Protocol

If an employee or student becomes ill on campus, he/she will immediately report to the nurse's isolation room and a case form will be completed. Isolation areas will be established for students and employees who experience COVID-19 symptoms while at school/work. These isolation rooms are supervised at all times, stocked with masks and hand sanitizer, and thoroughly cleaned each day.

Each school will appropriately implement the following steps in accordance with their building framework and available personnel:

- Teacher will inform the school nurse by phone prior to sending a student to the isolation room. Students will be escorted by an adult (no student escorts) to the isolation room.

- An employee will inform the school nurse by phone prior to coming to the isolation room.
- School nurse will perform appropriate assessment and complete documentation in the student information system (SIS).
- School nurse and others attending to the suspected infected person, should wear a protective face covering, face shield, gloves and any additional PPE that has been provided.
- School nurse will direct the ill employee to leave work, or will call the parent/guardian of the ill student to be picked up and taken home.
- Employees and parents/guardians will be given instructions to contact their medical provider.
- The school nurse or employee supervisor must identify persons who may have come in contact with the suspected infected person and await the confirmation of the test results. Individuals who have been tested for COVID-19 should self-quarantine until test results are provided.
- The employee supervisor will advise employees that they may have been in contact with a suspected employee and to carry out self-screening. District POC, District Nurse, Lori Ellis, R.N., will notify Probable Close Contacts and advise to quarantine for 14 days.
- The isolation area and suspected employee's or student's work area/classroom will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected, in addition to all other common surfaces recently touched by the employee or student.
- Areas or buildings where the student or employee was present will be closed for cleaning and disinfection in alignment with CDC guidelines.
- Impacted staff, students, and parents will be notified of any closures and/or possible exposures.
- The identity of the employee or student who tests positive or displays symptoms will remain confidential.

Return to School

Guidelines

When tested and determined to be COVID-19 positive, the student/employee will remain home until all of the following are true:

- at least 10 days since the onset of symptoms AND
- until fever free without the use of anti-fever medications for 24 hours AND
- symptoms are improving

The ADH will provide an official letter to all positive cases once they have met the criteria to be released from isolation.

Acceptable documentation for returning to work/school is established by the District/LEA, and such documentation should be submitted to the POC prior to returning to school/work. The COVID-19 positive individual does NOT need a repeat COVID test. However, the individual does need documentation from the Arkansas Department of Health allowing them to return to school/work. This documentation can be requested at ADH.coronavirus@arkansas.gov (The Arkansas Department of Health overrides physician's documentation unless that documentation is in compliance with CDC guidelines.)

Those who have tested positive for COVID-19 do not need to quarantine or be tested again for up to 3 months, as long as they do not develop symptoms again. This applies to anyone who has tested positive, isolated, and was then cleared from isolation to return to normal activities. If that person is again exposed to someone with COVID-19 within 3 months of when they were diagnosed, they do not need to quarantine or be tested again. However, should they develop symptoms typical of COVID-19, they may need to seek medical advice/attention.

When tested and determined to be COVID-19 negative, the student/employee will remain home until:

- The student/employee meets the school's normal criteria to return after an illness which includes being symptom-free for greater than 24 hours without medication OR
- A clinician has evaluated the student/employee and documented an alternative diagnosis and that the student/employee may return to school

Guidance if Exposed

Unvaccinated Employees and Students

If an employee/student has been notified as a Probable Close Contact of a confirmed COVID-19 case please do the following:

1. Quarantine in a specific room away from others in home for 14 days
2. Contact the following (in order of priority), notify them of the exposure to COVID-19, then follow their instructions.
 - a. Healthcare provider and follow testing recommendations
 - b. School Nurse/School Principal and District's Point of Contact
 - c. Supervisor (Employees only)
3. Supervisor will work with the District's Administration to determine appropriate next steps (Employees only).
4. If an employee/student learns of his or her exposure during the school day, immediately notify the school nurse who will contact other administrators per district protocol.

Vaccinated Employees and Students - Vaccinated employees/students should follow current guidance to protect themselves and others including:

- wearing a mask
- staying at least 6 feet away from others
- avoiding crowds
- avoiding poorly ventilated spaces
- covering coughs and sneezes
- washing hands often
- following CDC travel guidance
- following any applicable workplace or school guidance, including guidance related to personal protective equipment use or SARS-CoV-2 testing.

However, vaccinated persons with close contact exposure to someone with confirmed COVID-19 are not required to quarantine if they meet all of the following criteria:

- Are fully vaccinated (i.e., ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of the last required dose of vaccine in approved vaccine series)
- Have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure

Fully vaccinated persons who do not quarantine should still watch for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following an exposure.